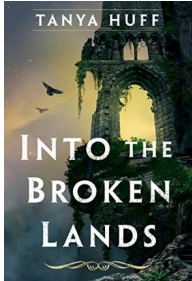




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



Into the Broken Lands
 By Tanya Huff
Discussed August 2023

Characters

Historical	Then	Now
The Weapon The Mages Captain Marsan	Uvili Garrett Arianna The “Then” Expedition Team	Nonee Ryan Lyelee The “Now” Expedition Team

Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish the book? Did you like it? Why or why not?

Writing / Structure

2. Into the Broken Lands does not follow a traditional narrative structure. Instead, Huff uses two structuring techniques/tools – changing point of view characters and shifting timelines.
 1. Did the use of these techniques help or hinder your enjoyment of the story in any way?
 2. Was the use of chapter headings identifying “then” and “now” and the POV character helpful? Did they set expectations effectively?
 3. What do you think prompted Huff to use the timelines of the two separate expeditions?
3. Did you know going in that the book was intended as a single standalone novel? Did it feel like a standalone book?
4. Are there other books this reminded you of in the use of either of the structural techniques?

Setting / Worldbuilding

5. The vast majority of the novel takes place in a single “abandoned” area of the world – the Mage Lands / Broken Lands – but the characters are not *from* there. Did you get a sense of a full built world from the novel? What worked? Does anything seem missing?
6. From what we saw of Gateway, the people of Marsanport, the characters with a cultural history from Shurlia...what can we glean of the cultures? How are they different? How are they similar?
7. In many ways, the story is less rooted in the current time period and more about historical people and events (the mage wars, the exodus and the destruction of Northport by the five thousand, etc) – how did that work for you? Did you find the history and its role in the story interesting?

Characters

8. There are a lot of characters in the story – both historical and within each of the timelines presented – were there any that stood out to you (in a good way or a bad way)? Did you have a favorite? A least favorite?
9. With so many characters, and the balancing of current time and history, was Huff able to provide depth to at least most of the characters? Did any of the character journeys surprise you?
10. There is a **lot** of queerness in the book, do you think it was handled well?
11. In chatting with Huff a few days before the discussion, she identified a single character as the author stand in...the “me” character in her words. Do you have a guess who that character is?
12. Also in that chat, Huff indicated that a transgender friend of hers had particularly connected with the character of Uvili and felt that Uvili’s journey resonated with the experience of some transgender individuals. Thoughts?

Themes

13. What do you think the primary themes that Huff was exploring in this story are? Do you think they were explored well?
14. Based on this book – would you be inclined to read more of Huff’s work?

Further Reading

- The Vicky Nelson / Henry Fitzroy Books (The “Blood” Books) – urban fantasy / vampires
- The Smoke Series – urban fantasy
- The Quarters Series – high fantasy
- Keeper’s Chronicles – urban fantasy
- The Valor Confederation series – science fiction
- Enchantment Emporium series – urban fantasy
- Stand alones: Gate of Darkness, Circle of Light (urban fantasy); The Fire’s Stone (high fantasy); Scholar of Decay (D&D/Ravenloft); The Silvered (high fantasy/werewolves)